

**A desk-based assessment of the  
archaeological remains on and around  
a proposed development site at Stanway,  
Colchester.**

**report prepared by  
Howard Brooks**



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Colchester Archaeological Trust  
12 Lexden Road,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051  
(01206) 500124  
email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

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## 1 Summary

*The proposed development site lies in an area of some archaeological sensitivity, being close to Grymes Dyke and Gosbecks, and only 600m north of the important Stanway burial site. However, the only recorded archaeological find from the site itself is a Roman coin, and a recent evaluation immediately to the south of the site has shown that archaeological features in this part of Colchester appear to have been rather thinly-spread.*

## 2 Aim

The aim of this assessment is to catalogue the archaeological remains on and around the proposed development site, to discuss them in their local context, and to determine whether they will cause any constraints on development.

## 3 Methodology

For the purposes of this assessment, a 'search area' has been defined, equating to the area shown on Figure 1. This equates to an approximately 9 square km area, with the proposed development site at its centre. This area was chosen as an appropriate search area to put the proposed development site in its local archaeological and historical context.

The following resources have been searched for evidence of archaeological sites and finds within the search area:

- The *Essex Historic Environment Record* (EHER). This is the primary source for a survey of this type. It is a computerised list of all recorded find-spots of **archaeological material** in Essex, whether excavated sites or loose finds. It also contains transcriptions of **cropmarks** taken from extensive air photograph coverage of Essex held by the National Monuments Record (NMR) and information on **Scheduled Ancient Monuments**.
- *Essex Place Names* online catalogue. This was searched for **place names** of archaeological or historical interest in the Parish of Stanway. It includes place names on Tithe maps.
- *The Heritage Gateway*. This national database gives lists of **Listed Buildings**, and other resources such as *Images of England* (photographs of listed buildings in England). The *National Monuments Record* of excavations in England and Wales, and *Pastscape* (English Heritage).
- The UNESCO website and other online lists for information on World Heritage Sites, Historic Parks and Gardens, and Registered Battlefields (there are none of these categories in the search area)
- Historic maps – including 1st edition OS (Ordnance Survey) coverage and the 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex (Figure 2).
- Relevant reports and publications held by Colchester Archaeological Trust (some recent CAT sites are not yet logged on the EHER).

Using the information from these sources, a map (Figure 1) has been compiled, and the **Archaeological Sites** shown on it are listed in **Section 4** (below) under the following headings:

- 4.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- 4.2 Listed buildings
- 4.3 Excavated and evaluated archaeological sites

- 4.4 Roman road lines
- 4.5 Chance discoveries of archaeological material
- 4.6 Archaeological sites known as cropmarks
- 4.7 Archaeological sites known from documentary sources

The historical background of the search area is considered in **Section 5**, and *An archaeological summary of the site* (**Section 6**) places the archaeological sites and finds within their local framework and considers any constraints on development. **Sections 7**, and **8** are the *References* and *Glossary*.

## 4 The archaeological sites

### 4.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (and unscheduled parts of the Colchester Dykes)

Two SAMs (Scheduled Ancient Monuments) lie within 1km of the proposed development site. These are the Colchester Dykes (the Late Iron Age and Roman defences of Camulodunum), and the Gosbecks site. The location of these sites is shown on **Figure 1**. See Hawkes & Hull 1947, Hawkes & Crummy 1995.

#### 1a Grymes Dyke south

Essex SAM 10h  
NGR TL: 9565 2150 – 9600 2330  
Distance from site: immediately to the east

#### 1b Grymes Dyke Middle

Essex SAM 10h  
NGR TL: 9630 2310 – 9600 2500  
Distance from site: 320 m

#### 1c Kidman's Dyke

Essex SAM 10h  
NGR TL: 9670 2380 – 9655 2180  
Distance from site: 350 m

#### 1d Heath Farm Dyke

Essex SAM 10h  
NGR TL: 9685 2360 – 9765 2430  
Distance from site: 400 m

#### 1e Triple Dyke

Essex SAM 10h  
NGR TL: 9655 2440 – 9670 2390  
Distance from site: 1km

#### (1f-1i) other, unscheduled elements of Colchester Dyke system.

Other dykes which do not exist above ground are as follows :

- 1f – Gosbecks Dyke North (TL 9610 2470 – 9605 2330)
- 1g – Dugard Dyke (TL 9645 2415 – 9620 2505)
- 1h – Shrub End Dyke (TL 9655 2440 – 9670 2390)
- 1i – Prettygate Dyke (TL 9665 2390 – 9765 2430)

## 2 Gosbecks Late Iron Age and Roman site.

Essex SAM 57  
Hawkes & Hull 1947, Hawkes & Crummy 1995

Distance from site: The western edge of the Gosbecks site comes within 100m of the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site, but the centre of the Gosbecks site is 1km to the south-east.

Gosbecks is a nationally important Late Iron Age and Roman site, including the following monuments:

- 2a – an enclosure (possibly Cunobelin's home)
- 2b – cropmarks of associated fields, paddocks, roadways
- 2c – Roman fort
- 2d – Iron Age and Roman temple
- 2e – Roman theatre (survives as slight earthwork mound)

## **4.2 Listed (and other notable) buildings**

There are no Listed Buildings within the boundaries of the proposed development site. The *Listed Buildings Online* catalogue shows that there are 20 listed buildings in the Search Area - 19 in Stanway Parish and 1 in the former Lexden Parish (which was incorporated into Colchester Borough in 1974: VCH X). Most of these are located on London Road, typically 1.1 to 1.3 km to the north of the proposed development site.

The nearest and most significant are listed below. One is the ruined church of All Saints. This stands next to Stanway Hall, which is the site of the principal manorial centre of Stanway. The others are cottages or farm buildings whose distribution is typical of the dispersed settlement pattern in Stanway.

### **3 St Albrights Church (= St Ethelbert's)**

Listed Buildings Online (or EHER) reference: EHER 11835

Grade: II\*

Distance from site: 1.4km

Now the parish church of Stanway, after a long period of virtual neglect and service as a chapel of ease to All Saints. Prior to this it was apparently an independent parish, known as little Stanway – prior to 1366.

The church now comprises a nave of Saxon or Saxo-Norman date. The arcade between the chancel and the chapel is late C15 and was brought from St Runwalds Church, Colchester, at the time of its demolition. It is uncertain whether there ever was a separate chancel at the east end or whether the building was always single celled, i.e. as it was prior to 1826. At the west wall, a west tower or porch has been removed, which was entered through a tall narrow archway from the nave.

The nave is early C12 and retains part of the original roof with scissor bracing and notched lap joists. The south chapel is modern but the east wall contains a reset, partly restored C15 window. Fittings include a coped slab (coffin lid) with large formy cross of early C13 date, a C15 font, C15 piscina and painting on the piers of the south arcade.

### **4 Church of All Saints, Maldon Road**

Listed Buildings Online reference: 421081

Grade: II\*

Distance from site: 1.25km

Ruined church. Late C13, much rebuilt probably following the fall of a tower in the early C15 when a north aisle was also built. North porch of *circa* 1605. Built of flint and stone rubble with some limestone dressings and red brick. Roof missing. West tower, 3 bay nave and north porch.

Chancel and north aisle were demolished *circa* 1605 by Sir John Swinterton when the church became the chapel to Great Stanway Hall. West tower of three stages has late C13 flint and stone below the tower arch with chequered and moulded plinth, above early C15 narrow bricks laid in single stretcher courses banded with courses of pebble flints and embattled parapet. Stepped buttresses. South staircase door with two-centred arch and moulded arch. Interior has early C15 domical brick vault. Nave south wall has door with 2 centred head and arched windows. Early C15 north aisle arcade with quatrefoil piers with hollows between the foils and with round moulded capitals and two-centred arches. Chancel arch blocked with early C17 brick window. Early C17 brick infilling, including north doorway with four-centred arch and drip-moulding. *Circa* 1605 English bond brick north porch has stepped gable with blank panel and four-centred arch and colonnettes. Derelict since *circa* 1700 (RCHM 3).

## **5 Stanway Hall**

EHER reference: 11730

Grade: n/a

Distance from site: 1.25km

Hall built probably about the middle of the C16 but which has been almost entirely rebuilt. Internally there is one room with early C17 panelling and original stone fireplace. This site is probably the site of the principal manor of Stanway at the time of Domesday.

## **6 Oldhouse Farmhouse, Stanway,**

Listed Buildings Online reference: 429996

Grade: II

Distance from site: 950 m

Late C17 or early C18 house with later alterations. Timber framed and red brick clad, with red plain tile roof. Two storeys, 4 window range. C19 casements in original openings with segmental heads. Circa 1700 door case and original 6 panel door. Central red brick chimney stack. Modern lean-to roof in plain tile, at east end over single storey, 2 bay windows with glazed door between.

## **7 Wiseman's Farmhouse, Stanway Green, Stanway,**

Listed Buildings Online reference: 421088

Grade: II

Distance from site: 90 m

Early C18 house with extensive re-used C16 materials. Timber framed and plastered. Two storeys and cellar, red and black pantile roof. One storey and attics, with modern casements. Internally some C16 framing remains. Good C18 detailing.

## **8 Cherrytree Cottage, Stanway Green, Stanway**

Listed Buildings Online reference: 421132

Grade: II

Distance from site: 70 m

Early C19 cottage, timber framed and weatherboarded with grey slate roof. Two storeys, 2 window range double hung vertical sliding sashes with glazing bars. Central red brick chimney stack. Square plan with lean-to at rear. Single storey extension at north end with red clay pantile roof and modern casements.

## **9 White House, Warren Lane, Stanway**

Listed Buildings Online reference: 421135

Grade: II

Distance from site: 480 m

Late C18 house, stuccoed brick with grey slate roof. Two storeys. Three window range double hung vertical sliding sashes with glazing bars. Rectangular plan with lean-to at rear. End wall chimney stacks. Two C19 bay windows and modern porch.

### **4.3 Excavated or evaluated archaeological sites**

Each entry is followed by its EHER number (and/or other source), the NGR for site centre, and its distance from the proposed development site.

#### **9a Fiveways Fruit Farm, 2008 evaluation**

CAT Report 493

NGR: TL 9576 2320

Distance from site: immediately south

The site of this recent evaluation (carried out prior to a planning proposal for the expansion of the aggregate quarry) is immediately to the south of the current site. In terms of its archaeological context, it lies 500m to the north of the late Iron Age élite burial site excavated at Stanway Quarry in 1986 and 1994-5 (Crummy *et al* 2007)

The evaluation revealed two principal periods of activity – Middle Iron Age (MIA) and Roman. In the MIA, settlement may have been focussed on a curvilinear enclosure (see ditch east of T80 on Figure 4). MIA activity included significant quantities of pottery, and loomweight fragments (which indicate local cloth weaving).

Perhaps the most significant find is a series of Roman ditches which *may* define a rectilinear enclosure measuring approximately 62m by 70m. This shown as the coloured rectangle between T80 and T90 on Figure 4. The particular interest of possible enclosure in particular (and the site in general) is how closely the sequence of MIA occupation followed by a Roman enclosure matches the Stanway excavation site to the south, where a MIA ditched enclosure was succeeded by a series of burial enclosures containing élite Late Iron Age burials, including the Stanway warrior and the doctor's burial.

There will probably be a further stage of archaeological work on the Fiveways Fruit Farm site, part of whose brief will be to determine whether the ditches do define an enclosure, or whether they are simply Roman field boundaries.

#### **10 The Mount**

EHER: 11706-9

NGR: TL 9686 2486

Distance from site: 1.6 km

This site is located 300m to the east of Triple Dyke. It is one of the two surviving barrows in this part of Colchester, the other being the Lexden Tumulus in Fitzwalter Road (beyond the search area).

The following text is adapted from Hawkes & Crummy (1995, 124).

*A barrow, containing fragments of Roman tile, somewhat crudely excavated. Nothing was found in situ in the centre of the barrow, but it may have been robbed out. The flattened top of the barrow was evidently done later.*

#### **11 Tollgate North, evaluation (March 1996)**

Crossan 1996

NGR: TL 949 247

Distance from site: 1.25 km

In March 1996, CAT was commissioned to carry out an evaluation of a ten-acre parcel of land between London Road and Essex Yeomanry Way, Stanway.

Fieldwalking was impractical because of the very dense grass cover, so a strategy of test trenching was adopted. Twenty two trenches were cut by machine. The results were as



follows. A few modern features were seen in the trenches, but nothing necessarily pre-Victorian. Finds were restricted to a couple of Roman potsherds and a single prehistoric flint scraper. This would indicate that early activity on this site was, at best, sparse.

## **12 Church Lane excavations, 1991**

Partridge 1993

NGR: TL 943 240

Distance from site: 1.1 km

There is an interesting group of cropmarks in the field north of Church Lane Stanway (site 33 here), principally a double-ditched trackway with an enclosure on its northern edge. In the autumn of 1991, CAT opened up a number of trenches to examine the interior of the enclosure, the enclosure ditch, and the trackway. The 1991 excavation is site 12 here, and the general trench locations are indicated by the red lines running from number 12 on Figure 1.

There was only a small amount of dated material from these excavations, but this indicated that the trackway was perhaps middle Iron Age and the enclosure was a later addition in the Roman period. Other loose finds from the site and its associated fieldwalking included a Neolithic waste flake, a few widely dispersed medieval sherds, and a single Anglo-Saxon grass-tempered sherd. There is also a reference to the discovery of a coin of Antonia Augusta (minted *circa* AD 41-64) from the Church Lane area, but this is not listed in the EHER.

## **13 Stanway elite Late Iron Age burial site**

Crummy *et al* 2007

EHER: 11756, 11757, 12552.

NGR: TL 956 225

Distance from site: 500 m

The principal archaeological excavation in the search area lies 600m to the south of the proposed development site. This is the nationally important Stanway burial site. The final report on these excavations has recently been published - *Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum*, by Philip Crummy, Stephen Benfield, Nina Crummy, Valery Rigby and Donald Shimmin (2007).

The following is taken from the report summary (page xviii).

*The Stanway site was excavated in intermittent stages between 1987 and 2003 in advance of its destruction for sand and gravel extraction. It lay on the outskirts of the modern town of Colchester in what had been Stanway Hall Farm. The Stanway site was on the fringe of the Late Iron Age and Roman oppidum of Camulodunum. It appears to have been the burial place of members of a high-status Catuvellaunian family. The characteristics of the site and the rites practised there reveal links with the Folly Lane and King Harry Lane sites in Verulamium and sites in northern Gaul. Stanway provides support for the possibility that Camulodunum may have existed as early as the time of Caesar's invasions of Britain.*

*Of the five enclosures which characterised Stanway, the smallest and earliest was the core of an Iron Age farmstead which had been abandoned by the mid 1st century BC. Four funerary enclosures followed, each of which incorporated a single wooden chamber in a central or axial position. The earliest of the enclosures (Enclosure 1) was the largest. As well as a wooden chamber, it included an unaccompanied urned cremation burial and a pit with broken funerary goods. All three features dated to the second half of the 1st century BC. A single contemporary pit found some distance away contained pyre debris and was probably datable to between circa 60 and 1 BC. (CF7). The other three enclosures (Enclosures 3-5) were laid out in a continuous row in two stages, one in circa AD 35-45 (Enclosure 3) and the other two (Enclosures 4*

and 5) as a conjoined pair in circa AD 40-50. Parts of deliberately-broken pots and other objects were placed in the chambers as part of the funerary rite. Six cremation burials inside Enclosures 3-5 date probably to circa AD 40-60/75 with most in the range circa AD 40-60. The numbers of grave goods in those burials varies from none at all to the many in the well-endowed 'Warrior's burial' (BF64) and the 'Doctor's burial' (CF47). The former was distinguished by the inclusion of a shield and lance or spear and the latter by a set of surgical instruments, a gaming board with counters in place, and a copper-alloy strainer which had been used to prepare an infusion of artemisia. The only certain pyre-site was in the centre of one of the enclosures (Enclosure 3) and had apparently been used at least twice. Two small square-ditched areas in the latest two enclosures (Enclosures 4 and 5) may have been the sites of pyres or structures for excarnation.

The small number of burials concerned, and the elaborate nature of the rite, suggest that the dead were all members of a British elite, and possibly all related. The date of the earliest chamber would suggest that in the decades leading up to the time of Cunobelin there was some stability and continuity among the upper classes, as opposed to the changing political scenario which is suggested by the evidence of contemporary coins. Moreover, the continued practice after the Roman conquest of what must have been a very public rite, and the appearance of arms in one of the secondary graves, both indicate that the people concerned enjoyed special privileges and no doubt Roman favour. In return, a pro-Roman faction like this, with appropriate ancestry, could have played a part in helping the Roman authorities manage the newly-formed *civitas* (local administration). The collection of material from the Stanway burials is of the greatest archaeological importance, not only from the interest of the objects themselves, but also from the amount of historical information which can be gleaned from them.

#### **14 Abbotstone excavations**

CAT Report 312

NGR: TL 943 227

Distance from site: 1.1km

Excavations by CAT on an area of 71,000 sq m in the Tarmac quarry (Bellhouse Pit), Warren Lane, revealed pre-MIA, MIA, LIA (Late Iron Age), Roman, medieval features, as follows:

##### **Period 1 before the Middle Iron Age (before c 300 BC)**

Small-scale and seasonal activity in the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the early Iron Age.

##### **Period 2 : Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman period (c 300 BC-late 2nd century AD)**

###### **Period 2, Phase 1**

Two ditched enclosures, one of which contained a round-house. The settlement was involved in activities such as food preparation/storage/consumption, animal keeping, textile production and some metal-working.

**Period 2, Phase 2** – This phase dates from the late 1st century AD to the early 2nd century. Phase 1 enclosures were replaced by two square ditched enclosures – a large enclosure to the east with a smaller enclosure to the west. No structural remains (buildings). Activities involving food preparation/storage/consumption, animal-keeping, textile production and metal-working. Evidence for ritual activity took the form of a human head buried in a ditch, a cremation, and the debris from the remains of pyres and feasting activities.

**Period 2, Phase 3** – This phase dates from the early 2nd century to the later 2nd century AD. All the features of Phase 2 were replaced by two new square ditched enclosures: a large enclosure to the north (containing formal entrances, internal divisions, stone surfaces

and other features) and a smaller enclosure to the south (containing formal entrances but with little evidence of internal activity). No structural remains were recorded in either enclosure although, as with Phase 2, evidence indicates that people were still living and working on the site and that a building of some sort probably did exist in the south-east corner of the large enclosure.

### **Period 3 the medieval period (12th-13th century)**

A building and two 4-post structures were constructed within a 'field system' of ditches laid out across the landscape. This probably represents a medieval rural farm, or part of one.

## **15 Gol Grove 1993-4 evaluations**

Fawn 1993  
EHER 11820-1  
NGR: TL 943221  
Distance from site: 1.1km

Suspected Roman or earlier road; river crossing at Gol Grove, and double trackway defined as a Roman road on the OS map although this identification may be suspect. It was first suggested as a Roman road by Miller Christy in 1923. The remains of the road examined on the east and west bank in 1979 indicated that it had been constructed on a flint base; better preservation was shown in the east bank than the west. This was probably a pair of medieval or later wood banks and not a road at all.

## **16 Gosbecks late Iron Age and Roman site**

Hawkes & Hull 1947  
Hawkes & Crummy 1995  
CAT Report 30  
NGR: TL 966 226  
Distance from site: 750 m

There have been a number of excavations at Gosbecks. Those carried out prior to 1995 are summarised in Hawkes & Crummy 1995. In 1842, the Reverend Henry Jenkins uncovered parts of what he mistakenly thought was a Roman villa, but was in fact the portico of the Roman temple (Fig 1, site 2d). Following the discovery of the Colchester Mercury statue, a number of small excavations was carried out one of which led to the discovery of the Roman theatre (site 2e). In 1967, the theatre was partially excavated by Miss BRK Dunnett, and in 1977, small areas of the theatre and portico were examined to assess plough damage (Hawkes and Crummy 1995, 95).

In 1995-1996, excavations were carried out in advance of development on three sites (Fig 1, site 16) near the northern edge of Gosbecks Archaeological Park (i.e., on the Maldon Road side: CAT Report 30). The earliest features were part of a large ditched enclosure and several smaller ditches of late Iron Age – early Roman date. In the early Roman period a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures was established bounded by a large ditch, and part of the area was occupied by a large number of substantial pits. The finds from these features were predominantly of Neronian date (i.e., AD 55-68) and a small number of military objects were recovered from them. Some of the finds suggest possible ritual activity.

There were two, possibly three, late Iron Age-early Roman timber buildings. A few finds of Flavian (AD 69-96) to early 3rd century date from some of the features indicate continued activity but at a much reduced level. At some point in or after the early 2nd century a wooden water-main was laid across the area and a ditched track or driveway was constructed to connect to the large boundary ditch. A number of Roman burials, both cremations and inhumations were focused around the large boundary ditch. All lay beyond the large boundary ditch, and all but one were aligned along it. Though not well dated, one

is of mid 3rd-4th century, and all probably date from the late Roman period. Identifiable post-Roman activity was limited to a few post-medieval features, mostly ditches.

On a separate site (off the east side of Fig 1) the Roman road between Gosbecks and the Roman town was revealed in the form of four ditches in two pairs forming a central carriage way approximately 7.0 m wide with narrower track-ways approximately 2.0 m across on each side. None of the road surface survived.

## **17 The Colchester Dykes**

Hawkes and Hull 1947, Hawkes & Crummy 1995  
Distance from site: e.g., Grymes Dyke trench 400 m

There have been a number of excavations on the dykes (site 1, above). See Hawkes and Hull 1947, and Hawkes and Crummy, 1995, for details.

Within the search area, there have been trenches across the dykes at Grymes Dyke Middle (at two places to the south of Peartree Road: *ibid* 109-116). Excavation prior to housing development in the area of Oaklands Avenue and Dugard Avenue in the 1970s involved the examination of parts of Kidman's Dyke, of several ditches which converge on the entrance through Grymes Dyke, and the Roman Road which passes through the same entrance (*ibid*, 107-109).

#### **4.4 Roman roads**

##### **18 Roman road**

EHER: 11705

NGR: TL 950 247 (and beyond)

Part of the Roman road from Colchester (*Colonia Claudia Victricensis*) to Chelmsford (*Caesaromagus*) crosses the northern edge of the search area.

##### **19 Roman road (conjectured)**

EHER: 11823

NGR: TL 942244 - 952242

A Roman road line is conjectured along this route.

##### **20 Roman road**

Hawkes & Crummy 1995

NGR: TL 954 222, TL 960 240

A Roman road seen as cropmark, heading towards Gryme's Dyke.

##### **21 Roman road**

EHER: 11637, 11638 (part of)

NGR: TL 961 233

What was thought to be part of a complex series of earthworks at the point where the line of Gryme's Dyke steps out to the west may in fact be a road line (over a slighted earthwork?).

##### **22 Roman road (conjectured)**

EHER: 11820-1

TL 943221

Following the line of a suspected Roman road running near Easthorpe, one reading of its direction allows the speculation that it ran through Gol Grove, and that the two banks in Gol Grove were connected with the road. Evaluation in 1993-4 showed this was probably not the case.

##### **23 Roman road (conjectured)**

Hawkes & Crummy 1995

NGR: TL 954 222

Another possible continuation of the Roman road in Easthorpe is that it travelled farther south than Gol Grove (i.e., site 22 above), and was actually along this line, heading towards Gosbecks.

## **4.5 Chance discoveries of archaeological material**

### **24 Bronze Age pottery**

EHER: 11611

NGR: TL 960 240 (approximately).

From near Shakespeare Road. No further details.

### **25 Prehistoric flints**

EHER: 11767

NGR: TL 950 240

Mesolithic (i.e., Middle Stone Age: circa 10,000 BC to 4,000 BC) 'tranchet' axes found near Stanway. No further details.

### **26 Prehistoric flints**

EHER: 11789

NGR: TL 9535 2406

Found in 1963 on Juniper Road. No further details.

### **27 Roman coin**

EHER: 11790

NGR: TL 9583 2372

A Roman coin of Gallienus (who was co-Emperor with Valerian, AD 253-286) was found on Rose Avenue. No further details.

### **28 Roman coin**

EHER: 12726

NGR: TL 9540 2330.

Roman coin of the Emperor Trajan (who reigned AD 98-117) was found on Stanway Heath in approximately 1971. This is the only archaeological find in the proposed development site.

### **29 Prehistoric pottery**

EHER: 11814

NGR: TL 965 738 (approximately)

A Middle Bronze Age burial urn was found on Dugard Avenue prior to 1960. No further details.

### **30 Palaeolithic flint axe**

EHER: 12574

NGR: TL 9663 2485

Found in Lexden Park prior to 1897. No further details.

### **31 Roman road ditch?**

EHER: 12684

NGR: TL 959 249

A ditch 12 feet wide was observed by local archaeologist Philip Laver 5 feet below the modern road surface in 1923, or shortly before. Although undated, this seems most likely to be the ditch of the Roman road, although it is wider than would be expected.

## **4.6 Sites known as cropmarks**

### **32 Cropmarks**

EHER: 11923

NGR: TL 943 249

Cropmarks, linear features, parts of rectilinear enclosures. There is a denser scatter of cropmarks at the west end of this site which may mark the position of an associated settlement site.

### **33 Cropmarks**

EHER: 11937

NGR: TL 944 239

Cropmarks of linear features and possible trackway. At TL 941 239 is part of a rectilinear enclosure with a circular feature.

### **34 Cropmarks**

EHER: 11938

NGR: TL 942 243

Cropmarks of linear features and possible trackway.

### **35 Cropmarks**

Plotted from CAT records

NGR: TL 9458 2467

Cropmark of a ring-ditch. Ring-ditches are normally assumed to be the plough-flattened remains of a Bronze Age barrow or burial mound, where only the ditch around the mound has survived. This site is unexcavated, and may have been damaged by recent road construction.

### **36 Cropmarks**

EHER: 11939

NGR: TL 947 247

Cropmark of an old field boundary with double-ditched trackway, and a penannular ring ditch. These are undated and unexcavated sites.

### **37 Cropmarks**

EHER: 11890

NGR: TL 938 235

Cropmarks of field boundaries, and a possible trackway. These are undated and unexcavated sites.

### **38 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of)

NGR: TL 9550 2330

Probably a linear field boundary and the south ends of two enclosures, one of which heads into site **9a**. Unexcavated, and undated. Now quarried away.

### **39 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of)

NGR: TL 9558 2330

Two lines which might be the corner of an enclosure or a double-ditched trackway heading into site **9a**. Unexcavated and undated. Now quarried away.

### **40 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of)

NGR: TL 9570 (centre)

Two converging lines, probably of geological origin. Now quarried away.

### **41 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of)

NGR: TL 9585 2295 (centre)

This cropmark site looks like a double-ditched enclosure with two prominent blobs. Philip Crummy, who looked at most of the AP coverage of this area when writing *CAR 11* with Christopher Hawkes (Crummy & Hawkes 1995), does not remember a convincing cropmark in this position. It is largely academic now, as the site has been quarried away, but is this a recent cropmark, perhaps of WWII date?

#### **42 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of)

NGR: TL 9525 2285

Two partial ring ditches, one with a central mark. Three adjacent and connecting lines, geological looking. Unexcavated and undated. Now quarried away.

#### **43 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of),

NGR: TL 9545 2285, 9565 2285 (etc)

The cropmarks of a rectilinear field system shown on all OS coverage from the 1st edition (1876) to 1939, and evidently grubbed out after that date. Now quarried away.

#### **44 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of)

NGR: TL 9555 2255 (centre)

Two groups of blobs. Some of these probably genuine archaeological features, some of geological origin. Some were excavated as part of the Stanway elite burial site (site 13 above). Now quarried away.

#### **45 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of)

NGR: TL 9570 2240

Two small rectilinear marks and an adjacent sinuous line. The latter at least looks geological. Now quarried away.

#### **46 Cropmarks near Stanway enclosures**

EHER: 11756 (part of)

NGR: TL 9560 2210

Parts of the recent field system (i.e. 43 above), a prominent line presumably, and two ?enclosures. This land (south of Maldon Road) survives.

#### **47 Cropmarks near the Abbotstone site**

EHER: 11919

NGR: TL 9405 2290 (centre)

Parts of two small enclosures to the west of the main Abbotstone enclosure (i.e., site 12). One is rectilinear with a mark on its southern edge. The second looks like a ring ditch with a central mark (burial?). This land survives.

#### **48 Cropmarks near the Abbotstone site**

EHER: 11843 (part of)

NGR: TL 9490 2300 (centre)

The cropmarks of a rectilinear field system shown on all OS coverage from the 1st edition (1876) to 1939, and evidently grubbed out after that date. Now quarried away.

#### **49 Cropmarks near the Abbotstone site**

EHER: 11843 (part of)

NGR: TL 9470 2260 (centre)

Cropmarks which are parallel to and probably associated with the rectilinear field system shown on all OS coverage from the 1st edition (1876) to 1939, and evidently grubbed out after that date. One linear roughly parallel with the extant field boundary to the east. Now quarried away.



#### **4.7 Sites known from documentary sources**

This section includes sites listed in EHER which are known from documentary sources, as well as interesting place-names as shown on the 1839 Tithe Map and Award (reference ERO D/CT 329a; searched online). Many of the place-names are not specifically helpful (in an historical sense), being such descriptions as "6 acre Field", "House", etc. Those that are of historical interest are listed below, followed by a comment. Unless an EHER number is given, the reference number relates to the online listing of the *Essex Place Names Project* (EPN).

##### **50 Site of brickworks**

EHER: 15362

NGR: TL 9595 2495

Site of brickworks managed by Edward Collier 1890-1919. Now covered in builder's merchants. Nothing thought to survive.

##### **51 Beacon Field**

EHER: 49502

NGR: TL 953 249

This is at what is now called 'Beacon End' on London Road. Presumably there was a beacon there at some time.

##### **52 Gravel pits**

EHER: 49637

NGR: TL 960 247

This former gravel pit is now a piece of scrubland on the west side of Grymes Dyke. The 1st edition OS shows an open pit in the centre of this scrubland.

##### **53 Church Yard (St Ethelbert's)**

EHER: 49676

NGR: TL 941 242

Next to St Ethelbert's (St Albright's) church.

##### **54 Hanging Meadow**

EHER: 49882

NGR: TL 952 222

This field and the two entries below are in a piece of woodland north of Gol Grove which is still called 'Hanging Wood'. The derivation is probably from the AS '*haengra*' which refers to a woodland on a hillside, rather than one in which executions took place.

##### **55 Hanging Grove**

EHER: 49887

NGR: TL 953 222

See site 54 (49882)

##### **56 Hanging Field**

EHER: 49901

NGR: TL 944 222

See site 54 (49882)

##### **57 Hanging Wood Field (Bellis Hanging)**

EHER: 49902

NGR: TL 943 223

See site 54 (49882). Bellis is an alternative spelling for the site variously known as Belhus, Bell House and Bellhouse.

##### **58 Hanging Wood Field (Bellis Hanging)**

EHER: 49903

NGR: TL 942 225

see site 54 (49882)

**59 Goll Grove**

EHER: 49898

NGR: TL 946 220

Modern spelling is Gol Grove. A wooded area on the north edge of which runs a road line which was thought to be a Roman road line until recent evaluation disproved this.

**60 Small gains**

EHER: 49919

NGR: TL 945 227

Presumably unprofitable farmland. This is now quarried away (In Bell House pit)

**61 Old Warren**

EHER: 49923

NGR: TL 950 225

The first of a group of references to rabbit warrens to the west of Warren Lane, and in the area of Hanging Wood and Bell House Pit. This particular site was presumably going out of use at the time of the Tithe Award.

**62 First Warren**

EHER: 49888

NGR: TL 952 224

Another reference to rabbit warrens to the west of Warren Lane, and in the area of Hanging Wood and Bell House Pit.

**63 2nd Warren**

EHER: 49924

NGR: TL 951 226

Another reference to rabbit warrens to the west of Warren Lane, and in the area of Hanging Wood and Bell House Pit.

**64 3rd Warren**

EHER: 49925

NGR: TL 951 228

Another reference to rabbit warrens to the west of Warren Lane, and in the area of Hanging Wood and Bell House Pit.

**65 The Warren**

EHER: 49999

NGR: TL 953 232

This is a field immediately NE of Furze Hill and to the S of the proposed development site. The implication of this field name is that there was a rabbit warren here which was cleared away before the land was used as an orchard.

**66 Gravel pit field**

EHER: 49997

NGR: TL 952 232

This former gravel or sand pit is now an area of scrubby ground to the SW of the proposed development site.

**67 Pit**

EHER: 49998

NGR: TL 951 234

This is the only reference to quarrying in an area which is still an active quarry - the Stanway Pit.

## 5 An historical summary of the search area

The above part of this assessment (section 4) has largely described “the archaeological record”, in other words the catalogue of SAMs, listed buildings, excavated and evaluated sites, cropmarks and loose finds.

It is appropriate now to give some thought to the historical record, as shown by early references to Stanway, the Domesday Book, and historic maps and other documents. Whilst these do not give a continuous historical narrative, some elements of occupational history and landscape history can be gleaned from them.

### 5.1 Pre-Domesday reference to Stanway

The place name ‘Stanwaegun’ (i.e. Stanway) appears in a will of Aefflaed, widow of Brihtnoth, dated AD 1000-02 (Hart).

### 5.2 Stanway in the Domesday Book

There is a recent consideration of this in the Essex Record Office’s 1990 publication *Essex in Domesday Book*, which usefully lists and maps Domesday manors. The accompanying map shows two manors in Stanway - *Stanwega* and *Bertuna*. The mapped positions of these two manors coincides with Stanway Hall and Olivers (the latter is outside our search area).

In fact, the position of the estate of *Bertuna* is not exactly known. Although ERO 1990 places it near Olivers, *Essex Place Names Online* suggests that it may be closer to modern Shrub End (which is to the east of the Search Area).

### 5.3 Post-Domesday place names in Stanway

Other post-Domesday place names which relate to Stanway are:

‘*Parkfeld*’, which was in Stanway manor in 1357. There is no place reference here, but the park may have been situated to the west of Bellhouse Farm and just beyond the western edge of the search area.

‘*Cherchefeld*’ in Stanway manor in 1357. No specific place reference, but this was presumably near All Saints Church, or St Albright’s (St Ethelbert’s), i.e., site 3, Figure 1.

‘*Le Conyngger*’ in Stanway manor in 1537. Coney = rabbit, and (by implication) this place-name refers to rabbit warrens. Although not firmly identified, there must be a very strong likelihood that this rabbit warren was in the area of the later warrens on and around Warren Lane (i.e., Figure 1, sites 61-65).

### 5.4 Map sources

#### **5.4.1 Chapman and André (Fig 2)**

The Chapman and André (C&A) map of 1777 is the earliest map coverage of the search area in general and the proposed development site in particular.

In 1790, the rector of Stanway reported that there was no village in Stanway. This is reflected in the C&A map, surveyed less than twenty years before that date, which shows farms and houses strung out along the London and Maldon Roads, and dispersed farms on the land between them. Even near the parish church of St Albright’s (St Ethelbert’s)

there is no noticeable group of building which could be described as a village centre – there is an equally sized cluster farther along the London Road at what is then shown as Beacon Farm (now 'Beacon End Farm'), where Villa Road now turns south off London Road.

Apart from Beacon Farm, some other buildings on the north side of London Road are identifiable. One is Wyvern Farm, and other unlabelled buildings are on sites still occupied today by old farms or houses. On the south side of London Road, Judas Farm is labelled (now "Judd's Farm"), and other unlabelled buildings can be identified (with a reasonable degree of confidence) with Evergreen Farm and Trafalgar Farm.

The other principal road running through Stanway is the Maldon Road. The three farms identified are 'Brick-wall Farm', 'Well House', and 'Stanway Hall', all of which survive (with modifications) today with virtually identical names.

Between the two main roads lies Stanway Heath. C&A shows the lines of the Colchester Dykes (particularly the Triple Dyke and Grymes Dyke), which survived in a more visible form than is the case today. Three buildings are shown on the south edge of Lexden Heath in the angle of Grymes Dyke. These must be Wiseman's Farm (Figure 1 site 7).

#### **5.4.2 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1896) (Fig 3)**

It is instructive to note the changes in the Stanway landscape between the Chapman and André Map of 1777 and the 1st edition OS of 1896. The first impression is that not much has changed - Stanway is essentially a rural parish with isolated farms and settlement along the two principal roads - the London Road and the Maldon Road. The major change is the enclosure of Lexden Heath, which formed a substantial part of the parish in 1777. The only visible surviving fragment is the area immediately around Grymes Dyke where it doglegs through Stanway Green. The rest was apparently arable land in 1896.

The removal of the heath has given rise to a slight change in the road layout, insofar as the road junction now known as 'Fiveways' has developed a new link to the west via High Chimneys Farm and through to Old House Farm. By contrast, the old road running north-eastwards from Fiveways to Lexden has dwindled into a footpath. Another change in the road layout is that Bellhouse Farm has developed a stronger road link to the north.

There has been a very small increase in housing density at the main part of Stanway village (on London Road), but the isolated farms have not changed in any substantial way (except that Judas Farm is now known as 'Judds').

## 6 An archaeological summary of the search area

### Prehistory and the Roman period

The proposed development site lies in an area of archaeological potential due to its location on the edge of the oppidum of *Camulodunum*, and close to the Colchester Dykes and the Stanway élite burial site.

The Colchester dykes are important prehistoric monuments. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. This was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably of the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43.

There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11*, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995). There is no need to repeat the detailed accounts which can be found in those volumes, but a brief summary is given here.

*Camulodunum*, as defined by the dykes, covers approximately 12 square miles of land around modern Colchester's town centre. The only above-ground traces of this *oppidum* are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dykes.

As presently understood, the *oppidum* had two centres of activity: one at modern Gosbecks Farm (site 2 here: Figure 1), which was a Late Iron Age and Roman rural farmstead (and probably the home of Cunobelin); and a second at Sheepen (2km to the north-east of the search area), which was the industrial and trading centre. It is possible that other such centres existed within the *oppidum* and await discovery.

Most of the land contained within the dykes was undoubtedly open farmland, pasture or woodland. Dotted around this landscape were other smaller farming sites such as the one at Kirkee & McMunn barracks (TL 987 231: Shimmin 1998) which developed into a Roman villa-type estate, but other Sheepen-like sites may await discovery.

The proposed development site is on the western edge of both *Camulodunum* and the dyke system, with Gryme's Dyke running along its eastern boundary. Although beyond the defended settlement, the contemporary burial site at Stanway (site 13 here) shows that there is a small chance that related archaeological remains could exist in the area.

Although there is a very clear potential for previously-unknown archaeological remains to be discovered here, it is, in fact, very difficult to predict what would be found. The only find in the proposed development site (28: a coin of the Emperor Trajan) is not particularly informative beyond making the general point that Roman material or sites may be present here.

Whether any sites similar to the élite burial site at Stanway await discovery in the proposed development site is a question which can only be answered by an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation. However, a recent evaluation immediately to the south of the current site may have shed some light on this question. This evaluation revealed a number of Roman field ditches which *may* form the sides of an enclosure similar to those on the Stanway site 600m to the south. (Further archaeological work is needed to determine whether this is the case.) In other respects, archaeological features were rather thinly-spread in the evaluated area and it is therefore highly likely that archaeological features are of a similarly low density on the present site.

The question of whether the present site was part of a Roman farming estate is simply not known. Being so close to Gosbecks, the presumption would be that the site was farmland, but it is not at all certain whether it was worked out of the Gosbecks site, or out of another (unidentified) but nearby Roman farm such as the Abbotstone site (Fig 1, site 14).

The eastern edge of the site adjoins Grymes Dyke. As this is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), English Heritage (EH) will have a view on this. To follow recent good practice (where the Colchester Garrison PFI development included land adjacent to Berechurch Dyke), EH may be satisfied if a corridor of undeveloped land is left between the dyke and the development. EH should be consulted on this point.

#### Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.

The evidence from Stanway for these periods is largely in the form of place-names such as the early 11th century reference to 'Stanwaegun' (i.e. Stanway), and the names of the Stanway manor house at the time of Domesday - *Stanwega* and *Bertuna*. The first almost certainly coincided with Stanway Hall, and the second probably with Olivers (outside our search area at TL 967 214).

The current site probably lay in the lands farmed from the Stanway Hall manor site in the centuries before and following Domesday.

#### The post-medieval period

The Chapman and André map of 1777 and the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1896 show that during the 18th and 19th centuries, Stanway was essentially a rural parish with isolated farms and settlement along the two principal roads - the London Road and the Maldon Road. The major change is the enclosure of Lexden Heath, which formed a substantial part of the parish in 1777. The only visible surviving fragment is the area immediately around Grymes Dyke where it doglegs through Stanway Green. The rest was apparently arable land in 1896. During these centuries, the current site lay in farmland.

## 7 References

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## 8 Glossary of abbreviations and other terms used

AP	air photograph
Bronze Age	after New Stone Age - approximately 2000 to 700 BC
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer
cropmark	ancient features which show as lines and other marks in crops due to differential root depth of roots over damp soil in archaeological features.
D/CT	ERO reference number to tithe awards studied for this report
dyke	defensive earthwork with ditch
ECC	Essex County Council
EH	English Heritage
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by ECC
ERO	Essex Record Office (Colchester branch)
<i>in situ</i>	in its original position
Iron Age	After the Bronze Age and before the Romans – 700 BC to AD 43
medieval	from AD 1066 to around AD 1530
Mesolithic	the period when the ice sheets melted (10,000 BC- 4,000 BC)
modern	19th – 21st centuries
Neolithic	New Stone Age – the earliest farming (around 4,000-2000 BC).
NMR	National Monuments Record (English Heritage) at Swindon
occupation	signs of human habitation - usually rubbish (pottery, shells, etc.).
<i>oppidum</i>	late Iron Age / early Roman 'proto-town'.
Palaeolithic	Old Stone Age (500,000 BC to 10,000 BC)
post-medieval	from 16th century to 18th century
prehistoric	before Roman period - i.e. the years BC to AD 43
Roman period	from AD 43 to around AD 410
ring-ditch	the plough-flattened remains of a Bronze Age burial mound
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
Saxon	after the Romans - 5th century to AD 1066

## 9 Acknowledgements

*Report researched and written by Howard Brooks BA FSA MIFA*

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COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST  
12 LEXDEN ROAD,  
COLCHESTER,  
ESSEX C03 3NF  
tel/fax: (01206) 541051  
email: [archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk](mailto:archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk)

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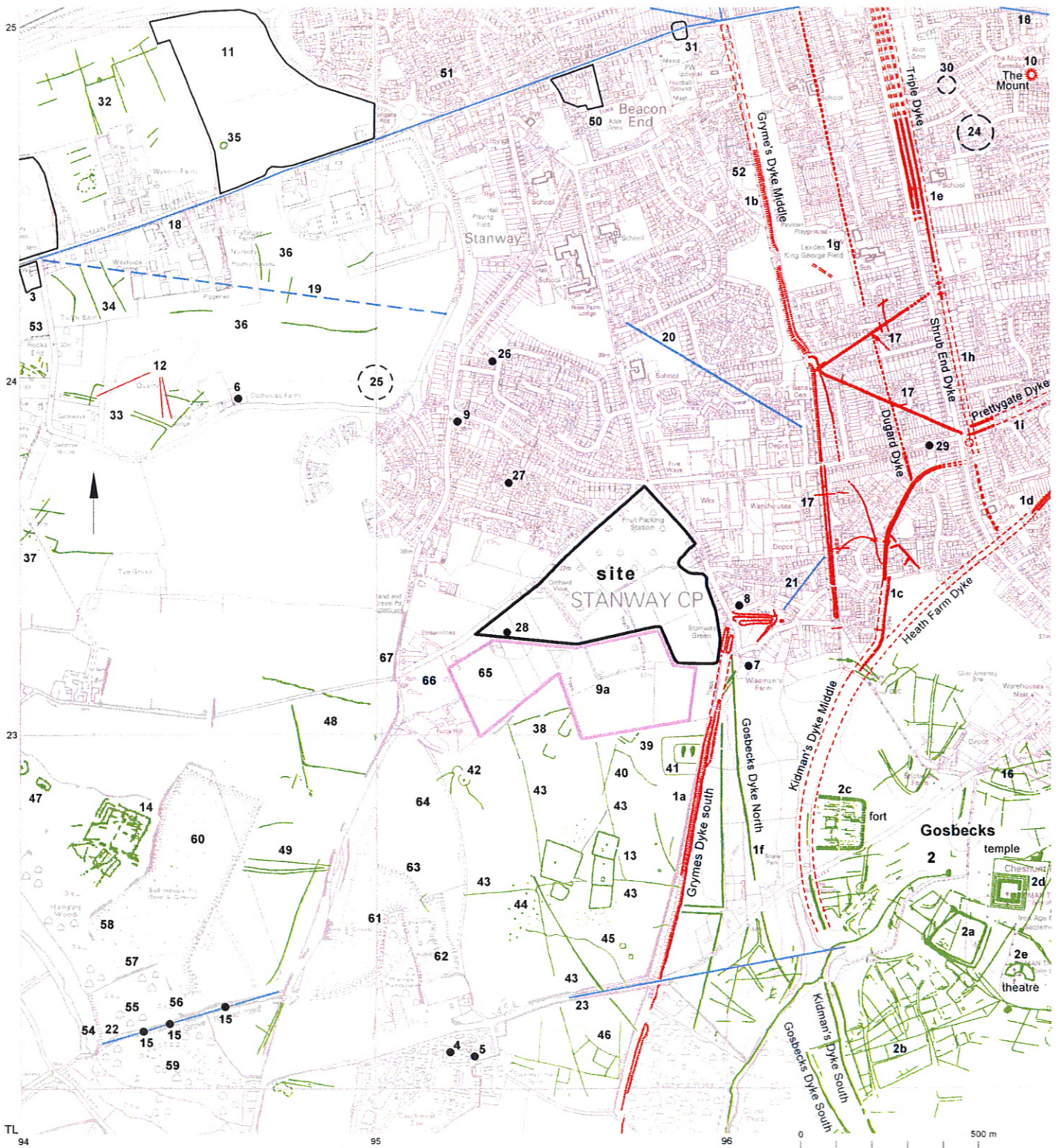


Fig 1 Archaeological sites, find-spots and place-names within 1.2 km of site.

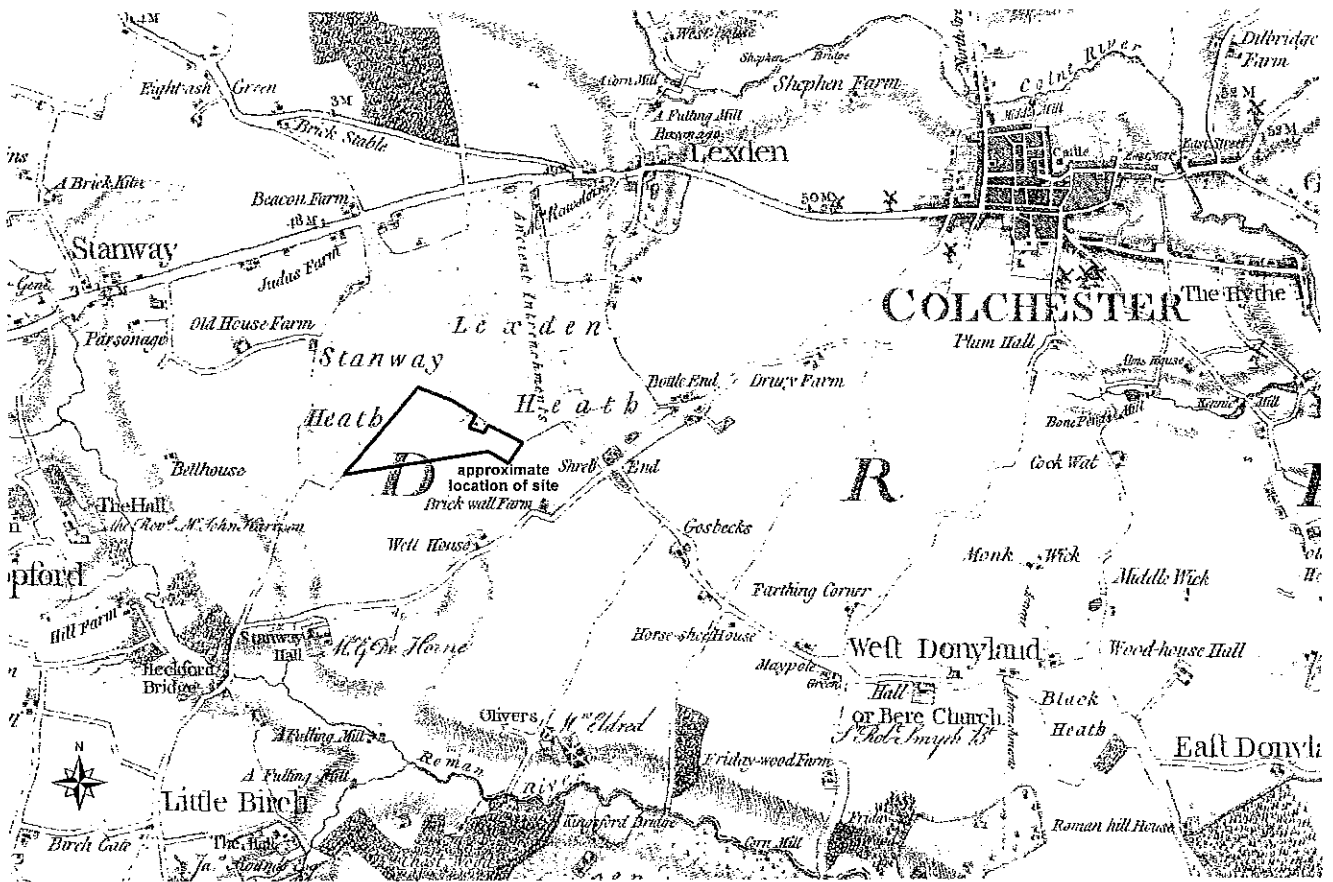


Fig 2 Approximate location of site in relation to Chapman and André map of the county of Essex (1777). (Not to scale.)

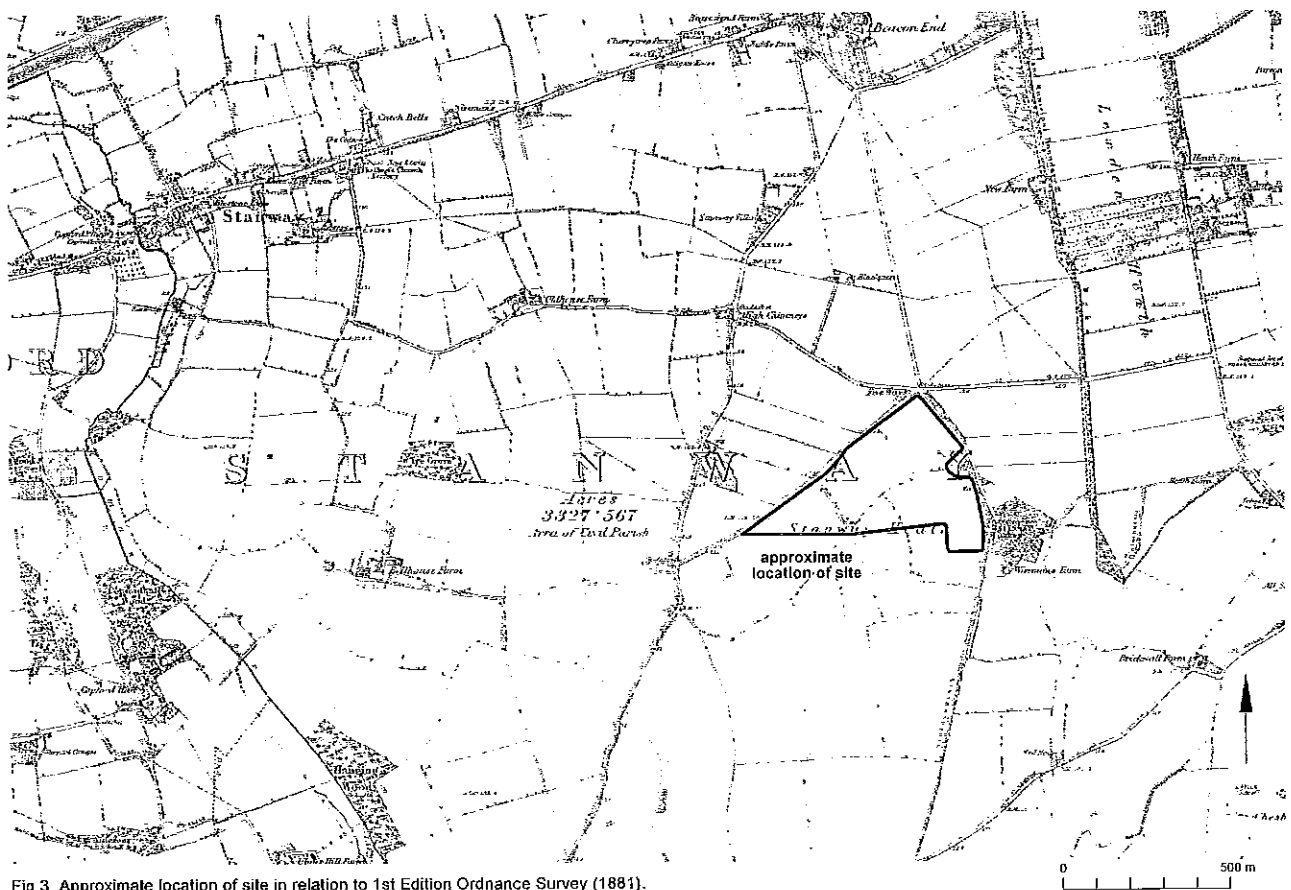
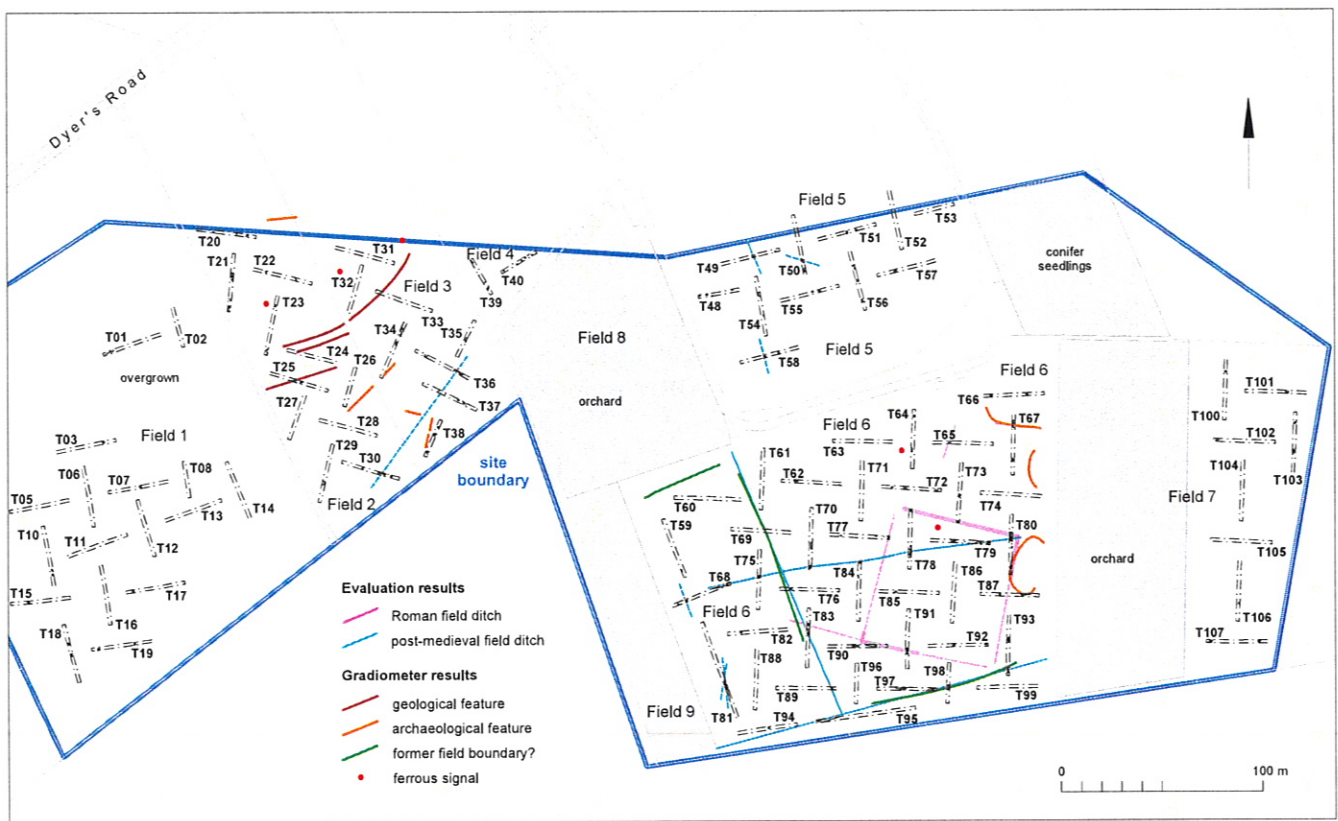


Fig 3 Approximate location of site in relation to 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1881).





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Fig 4 Trench location plan, showing Field numbers.